

## A ROUSING CAMP FIRE.

John F. Reynolds Post, No. 6, of this city held a Camp-fire Monday night, and it recalled to many the time when camp-fires were things in dead earnest. A light-blue haze was hung over Spencerian Hall, corner of Seventh and L streets northwest, caused not by the blaze of gunpowder, but by the more genial consumption of man's solace and comforter—tobacco. Two boxes filled with clay pipes and each of tobacco were placed near the door, and two gallant warriors on entering "loaded" and "fired," thus adding his mite to the general volume. Here and there could be seen some old war-scarred veteran with his crutches beside him or some sleeve hanging limp by its owner's side showing where the deadly sabre or fatal bullet had done its work. A military cap, the familiar blue fatigue coat, and a medal suspended by a couple of inches of parti-colored ribbon showed through occasional rifts in the smoke and gave the gathering a semi-military appearance. The hall was well filled, representatives from many other Posts being present. At half-past seven Dr. W. W. Granger, who presided, announced a bugle song by Col. Rogers. Captain Moore followed with camp-meeting song, "Oh I'll Meet You Dar." Comrade Randolph and Mr. Mallard then gave the scene before *Brutus* and *Cassius* from "Julius Caesar." The recitation was well-rendered and evoked frequent outbursts of applause. Comrade Scott's manly voice brought down the house with "An Old Man's Song," and in response to long-sustained applause gave "Moriarty." Professor Webb gave a piano solo, and Mr. Mallard an exceedingly good comic recitation, entitled "Business in Mississippi." Dr. Granger recited a little *ante-bellum* story, which had for its hero General Prentiss, and which took tremendously. Comrade Randolph followed with a recitation written by Bret Harte at the dedication exercises at Providence, R. I. last year. It was entitled "Miss Blanche's Rose," and in Bret Harte's usual happy vein. Mr. Kennedy gave a baritone solo, and was encored. General Whittier, a relative of the poet, of George G. Meade Post, occupied the attention of the company with a few remarks. He suggested that several Posts should have a hall and museum here worthy of the G. A. R. Comrade Townsend then recited "The Clown's Story," and at its conclusion Col. Rogers said he was going to sing "Tramp, Tramp," and wanted the boys to join in the chorus. And join they did! The very walls shook as the grand old strains echoed through the hall. When the excitement had somewhat subsided Dr. Granger announced that the boys could tramp upstairs and attack the commissary. After the hard tack had been suitably dealt with, song succeeded song in rapid succession until the blue-sounded lights out, which happened about 11.30.

## CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

IN THE SENATE.—On Thursday the 6th inst. the President pro tem. submitted the response of the Secretary of the Interior to the Senate resolution of May 9, 1881, transmitting a list of the names of officers, clerks, and other employees on the rolls of the Department, with the salary, date of appointment and grade of office of each, the State to which each is charged, and indicating who served in the Union and who in the Confederate armies. Bills were introduced and referred to committees as follows: By Mr. Pendleton—To provide that the principal officers of each of the Executive Departments may occupy seats on the floor of the Senate and House of Representatives. Referred, on motion of Mr. Pendleton, to special committee of ten, to be appointed by the Chair. By Mr. Vest—To make the wife a competent witness in trials for bigamy in the Territories of the United States; referred to Committee on Judiciary. Also, for recording of marriages in Territories; Committee on Territories. By Mr. Plumb—For a readjustment of the salaries of certain postmasters in accordance with section 8 of act of June 12, 1866; to Post Offices. By Mr. Maxey—To designate, classify, and fix the salaries of persons in the railway mail service; to Post Offices. By Mr. Cockerell—For a classified, analytical, and descriptive catalogue of all Government publications from July 4, 1876, to March 4, 1881; to Printing. Also, for the investigation and examination of the accounts of certain land-grant railroads, in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Court, and for a full report of the results thereof to Congress (the bill is identical with that reported favorably last session); to Military Affairs. Also, to extend the time for filing claims for horses and equipments lost by officers and enlisted men in the service of the United States and for other purposes; to Military Affairs. Also, to amend certain sections of the revised statutes. It provides that every soldier or officer who served in the military or naval service of the United States during the recent rebellion for ninety days and was honorably discharged, and in case of his death his widow and minor children, shall be entitled to 160 acres of public land not otherwise reserved or appropriated. Upon the conclusion of morning business, Mr. Morrill's tariff commission bill was taken up, and Mr. Morrill addressed the Senate thereon, after which the Senate adjourned until Monday.

The House was not in session, having previously adjourned from Wednesday until Friday.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9.

The HOUSE met at the usual hour—Senate not in session.

The proceedings opened with the reception of a message from the Senate, announcing the passage of the resolution granting Mrs. Garfield the franking privilege, and the appointment of a select committee to take suitable steps toward eulogistic ceremonies concerning the assassination of the late President Garfield.

Mr. Robeson, of New Jersey, secured recognition and called attention to the fact that he had previously announced that he would move that when the House adjourned to-day it would be to meet on Tuesday next. He said further that as that would cut off Monday, the regular bill day, he hoped that the House would allow members to unload themselves of accumulating bills and resolutions Tuesday. This proposition was unanimously agreed to. Speaker Keifer then swore in Congressman Mills, of Texas, and announced Messrs. A. Herr Smith, of Pennsylvania; Ryan, of Kansas; Paul, of Virginia; Cox, of South Carolina, and McKenzie, of Kentucky, as the Committee on Mileage.

Mr. Robinson suggested as a matter that needed immediate attention, the appointment of a select committee to join with a like committee of the Senate in auditing the accounts of expenses incurred by the assassination and burial of President Garfield.

This was objected to as out of order and went over.

The Chair then announced the following select committee of the House to join with the Senate committee in arranging for the Garfield eulogistic ceremonies: McKinley, of Ohio; Pacheco, of California; Bedford, of Colorado; Wait, of Connecticut; Forney, of Alabama; Dunn, of Arkansas; Martin of Delaware; Davidson, of Florida; Stephens, of Georgia; Cannon, of Illinois; Orth, of Indiana; Kasson, of Iowa; Anderson, of Kansas; Carlisle, of Kentucky; Gibson, of Louisiana; Dingley, of Maine; McLane, of Maryland; Harris, of Massachusetts; Horr, of Michigan; Dannelly, of Minnesota; Hooker, of Mississippi; Ford, of Missouri; Valentine, of Nebraska; Cassidy, of Nevada; Hall, of New Hampshire; Hill, of New Jersey; Vance, of North Carolina; George, of Oregon; O'Neill, of Pennsylvania; Chase, of Rhode Island; Aiken, of South Carolina; Pettibone, of Tennessee; Mills, of Texas; Joyce, of Vermont; Tucker, of Virginia; Wilson, of West Virginia, and Williams, of Wisconsin.

The annual report of the late Clerk Adams, and an account and inventory of his effects as transferred to Clerk McPherson was submitted. It showed everything to be in a highly satisfactory condition. Indefinite leave of absence was granted Mr. Phister, of Kentucky, on account of the death of his father, and to Mr. Carlisle, of the same State, on account of important business.

The House then, at 12:20 o'clock, on motion of Mr. Robeson, adjourned until next Tuesday at noon.

## MONDAY.

THE SENATE convened at the usual hour. But little business was transacted.

A communication was received from the Secretary of War, transmitting reports relative to the proposed new building for a Pension Office in Washington. Referred to the Committee on Appropriations. The Chair submitted a memorial from the Legislature of Minnesota for an appropriation for the improvement of the Mississippi River from St. Anthony's Falls to New Orleans. Referred to the Special Committee on Mississippi River Improvement.

Messrs. Edmunds and Hampton presented petitions for the abolition of the tax on bank checks. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

A number of bills were introduced and referred to committees, among which was the following:

By Mr. Harrison—For delivery to the Society of the Army of the Cumberland of condemned cannon to aid in the erection of a statue of Gen. Garfield. To Military Affairs.

A communication from the President of the United States transmitting in response to Senate resolution of May 17, 1881, the report of the Secretary of State touching the Geneva convention for the relief of the wounded in war was received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. Mr. Hill, of Georgia, from the Committee on Privileges and Elections, reported back certain memorials from members of the New York Legislature affecting the right of the present Senators from that State to occupy seats in the Chamber, and asked that they be tabled and the committee discharged from their further consideration.

Upon request of Mr. Garland report was allowed to lie over under the rule.

The tariff commission bill was then taken up and debated by Senators Garland, Beck, and Morrill. Subsequently, on motion of the last-named, all the bills on the subject were referred to the Committee on Finance.

The civil service reform bill of Mr. Pendleton was then taken up and laid over as the unfinished business for to-morrow.

Mr. Grover introduced a bill authorizing full pay to Lieutenant Schwatka, U. S. A., while on leave to serve in command of the Franklin search expedition in the Arctic Ocean. Referred to Committee on Claims.

Mr. Davis, of Illinois, introduced a bill to establish a court of appeals. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. Davis, of West Virginia, introduced a bill to repeal certain laws relating to the payment of indefinite appropriations. [This bill was introduced by Mr. Davis in the last Congress, and passed the Senate. It makes the larger number of the so-called indefinite or permanent appropriations specific appropriations.] Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. Cameron, of Pennsylvania, introduced a bill which appropriates \$200,000, to be distributed proportionately among the officers and crew of the United States steamer *Montauk*.

The bills and joint resolutions introduced numbered over eighty.

At half-past two o'clock the Senate went into Executive session, confirmed the nomination of Hon. Frederick P. Freelinghyusen, of New Jersey, to be Secretary of State, and a few minutes later adjourned.

## TUESDAY.

Mr. Hoar, from the Committee on Rules, reported back the resolution for a select committee of seven, to be appointed by the Chair, on the extension of the suffrage to women, or the removal of their legal disabilities. He asked unanimous consent for the present consideration of the resolution.

Mr. Vest objected.

Mr. Sherman submitted a resolution constituting a select committee of five to inquire and report as to the condition of the Potomac river front of the city of Washington; the navigability of said river; the effect of bridges across the same upon navigation, floods and the health of the city; and what action ought to be taken in the premises; with power to send for persons and papers, examine witnesses and employ a clerk and stenographer, if necessary.

Adopted, and Messrs. Ransom, Jones of Nevada, Kellogg, Conger, and Vest were constituted by the Chair the committee.

Bills were introduced and referred to committees as stated:

By Mr. Davies—To amend Revised Statutes in relation to the sale of spirituous liquors to Indians, and for other purposes; to Judiciary. By Mr. Vest—To incorporate the Interstate Ship Railway Company, and for other purposes; to Commerce. By Mr. Slater—To increase the water supply of the city of Washington; to District of Columbia. Mr. Logan, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported, with amendments, the bill to place Gen. Grant on the army retired list; placed on the calendar. Mr. Maxey, of the committee, said the report just made was not unanimous, and he would indicate his objections to it at the proper time.

Mr. Edmunds submitted a resolution requesting the President, if in his opinion not incompatible with the public interest, to communicate to the Senate all the correspondence between the Government of the United States and its diplomatic agents in Peru and Chili, respectively, occurring since the 1st of April, 1879, touching public affairs in or between those States, and also such correspondence on the subject as may be in possession of the Department. Agreed to without dissent.

The report of the Committee on Privileges and Elections upon the memorials affecting the right of the New York Senators to occupy seats was laid on the table, after a statement by Mr. Garland that, upon examination, he saw nothing to dissent from in the report.

This action was regarded as finally settling the matter.

At 1:15 p. m. the bill to regulate and improve the civil service was taken up, and Mr. Pendleton addressed the Senate.

In the HOUSE—Mr. Taylor offered a resolution, which was unanimously adopted, for the appointment of a select committee, of eleven members, to audit all claims for services and expenses growing out of the illness and burial of the late President Garfield. Also, to consider what allowance, pension or privilege shall be granted the widow and family of the late President.

Mr. Robeson offered a resolution for the appointment of the following select committees: On the census; on reform in the civil service; on the law respecting the election of President and Vice-President; on epidemic diseases; on the inter-oceanic steam canal; on the payment of pensions, bounty, and back pay.

Mr. Knott objected to the resolution on the ground that the majority of those committees were unnecessary.

On motion of Mr. Sherwin, a resolution was adopted for the appointment of the Committee on the Census.

A large number of bills were introduced, the titles of which are given elsewhere, after which the House adjourned until Friday.

## WEDNESDAY.

In the SENATE—Mr. Allison, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported favorably the bill supplying the accidental omission of the word "and" in the clause of the sundry civil appropriation act of the last Congress, making an appropriation for a new pension building. He explained that the omission had restricted the appropriation of \$200,000 then made to the purchase of a site, although it was intended to apply also to the purchase of a new building.

Laid on the table the suggestion of Mr. Edmunds, to enable inquiry to be made as to the sufficiency of the appropriation.

On motion of Mr. Sherman, the committee on the Garfield memorial services was increased by the addition of two members, namely, Messrs. Conger and Brown.

Bills were introduced and referred to committees as stated: By Mr. Ingalls—For a public building

for Government offices at Atchison, Kan. By Mr. Camden—For a further appropriation to continue the improvement of the Ohio river in West Virginia; also, in relation to steamboat inspectors; also, for the construction of two ice-breakers in the Ohio river, near Parkersburg, W. Va. By Mr. Davis (W. Va.)—For a court-house and post-office buildings at Clarksburg, W. Va. By Mr. Edmunds—For ascertaining and settling private land claims in certain States and Territories. By Mr. Hawley—To authorize the President to make the necessary arrangements to carry into effect any convention between the United States and Nicaragua for the adjustment of claims which may be duly concluded between the two governments. By Mr. Plumb—Joint resolution for the relief of the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad Company.

At the close of the morning business in the Senate the subject of the presidential succession was brought up and Mr. Beck addressed the Senate to illustrate the urgency for legislative action.

The Senate Committee on Appropriations to-day took up the Thurman resolution, directing an investigation of the expenditure of contingent funds by the various Departments. The subject was referred to a sub-committee of five, consisting of Allison (chairman), Logan, Hale, Davis of West Virginia, and Cockerell, with instructions to obtain from the Departments such facts as are needed, and especially to get the testimony taken by the Treasury committee that investigated Pitney and have it printed. There was some discussion about the mode of conducting the investigation, the Democrats arguing that it be done with open doors, but this question was not decided. The sub-committee is to do the work of investigation and report back to the full committee. They will begin work immediately. After transacting some further unimportant business the Senate adjourned.

## SOMETHING ABOUT PENSIONS.

A correspondent sends us the following article concerning pensions:

The first pension law passed by Congress was that of April 10, 1862, and was entitled "An act to provide for persons who were disabled by known wounds received in the Revolutionary war." This was followed by an act concerning invalid pensioners, and was approved April 25, 1868, the object of which was to provide for payment of State pensioners of the Revolution by the United States, and for invalids disabled subsequent to the Revolution.

An act to raise an additional military force, approved Jan. 11, 1812, provided for invalids of the war of 1812, stated that "if any officer, non-commissioned officer, musician, or private shall be disabled by wounds or otherwise while in the line of his duty in public service, he shall be placed on the list of invalids of the United States."

By act of April 16, 1816, the widows of the soldiers of the war of 1812 were added to the list of those entitled to pensions. In case the widow was not living the children under 16 were entitled.

An act supplemental to the "Act for the relief of surviving half-pay soldiers of the Revolution, and approved June 7, 1832," made an increase in the amount of pension previously paid, said increase to continue during life.

Act of July 4, 1836, provides "five years half pay to widows or orphans of those who have died since April 20, 1818, in the service of the United States or of wounds received in the service." This act was at expiration renewed from time to time until by act of February 3, 1858, "all those surviving widows who have been or may be granted an allowance under the provisions of the provisions of any law or laws of the United States, be and they are hereby granted a continuance of such half pay during life." In case the widow was not living the children (under 16 years of age) of said soldier were entitled to pension.

As an inducement to those who might be persuaded to enlist in the war then existing between the United States and the Republic of Mexico, it was on May 13, 1846, enacted "That the volunteers who may be received into the service of the United States by virtue of the provisions of this act, and who shall be wounded or otherwise disabled in the service, shall be entitled to all benefits which may be conferred on persons wounded in the service of the United States."

By act of February 2, 1848, the widows of Revolutionary soldiers were granted special favors.

April 1, 1864, the pensions of the soldiers of the Revolutionary war were increased.

February 18, 1867, the pensions of the widows of the soldiers of the Revolutionary war were increased to the same annual amount previously paid to the soldier.

Between the passage of the first pension law in 1862 and the commencement of the war of 1861 there were various "acts" of minor importance—mostly in keeping with preceding enactments.

On July 22, 1861, an act was passed "to authorize the employment of volunteers to aid in enforcing the laws and protecting public property," and it was further enacted that "any volunteer who may be received into the service of the United States under this act, and who may be wounded or otherwise disabled in the service, shall be entitled to the benefit which have been or may be conferred on persons disabled in the regular service, and the widow, if there be one, and if not, the legal heirs of such as died or may be killed in service, in addition to all arrears of pay and allowance, shall receive the sum of one hundred dollars."

In order to "provide pensions to invalids in the war of the rebellion and their relatives," &c., on July 14, 1862, it was enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, "That if any officer, non-commissioned officer, musician, or private of the army, including regulars, volunteers, and militia, or any officer, warrant or petty officer, seaman, ordinary seaman, flotillaman, marine clerk, landsman, pilot, or other persons in the navy or marine corps has been since the 4th of March, 1861, or shall hereafter be disabled by reason of any wound received or disease contracted while in the service of the United States, and who may be entitled to such making due proof of the fact, according to such forms and regulations as are or may be provided by or in pursuance of law, be placed upon the list of invalid pensioners of the United States, and be entitled to receive for the highest rate of disability such pensions as is hereafter provided in such cases, and for an inferior disability an amount proportionate to the highest disability." This act also provides pensions for the widows and children of soldiers and sailors who were disabled by reason of any wound received or disease contracted in the service of the United States in said war. Provision was also made for dependent parents, and also for dependent brothers and sisters under 16 years of age.

From the foregoing brief extract from the pension laws of the United States it will be seen that with the exception of the Revolutionary war, when the country was not able to pay its troops, much less pensions, it has been the custom of the Government at the commencement of a war to make a special enactment providing pensions as an inducement to aid in procuring enlistments in a service where limb and life would be placed at risk, the Government being conscious that the regular pay offered was less than that offered to men in ordinary health in their usual avocations.

War is, to say the least, very unsafe business. The soldier may not enter battle clothed in a coat of mail; nor can he wait to put on his gun shoes before starting on his long and bloody march; or hold up an open umbrella to shelter his person from the cold and unwelcome rain. The result is that disease and death make sad havoc in the ranks.

In the twenty-four battles of the Revolution 7,883 Americans fell in battle. In the Mexican war 100,454 men were mustered into the service, of which number 9,749 were discharged for disability, and the number of those who were killed in battle and died of disease amounted to 12,836. Making more than one-fifth of the entire number of said war.

During the war of the rebellion, according to the report of the Adjutant-General, United States Army, the number of enlisted men and commissioned officers amounted to the grand total of 2,355,942. The number of those who died in the service amounted to 303,504. 74,707 men were discharged, disabled by consumption, diarrhoea and dysentery, debility, rheumatism, and heart disease. Of the vast number of those who were wounded or contracted disease in the service, and who continued in the service until discharged, and who have since died,

and, we may add, who may yet die from said causes, we can of course give no estimate.

During, and at the close of the late war, the Government was hard pressed for money, and while borrowing at a high rate of interest it increased its war debt with great rapidity. Under these circumstances many who were entitled to pensions, but who had some means declined to apply. Of those not a few continued to engage in their usual pursuits until totally unable to work, and then, having applied for a pension, found that sickness and death worked faster than the Pension Department. They have gone to the "other shore," leaving their widows and children behind to work up the claims.

To one who has applied for a pension and who finds the annoying delay caused by the time consumed examining the military and hospital records, and the sworn testimony of officers and comrades and others, the statement that anyone not entitled ever receives a pension seems difficult of belief.

As regards payment of pensions there can be no honorable withdrawal. They must be paid and that as speedily as possible. Where the disability has existed ever since the war, the pay should be commensurate with the length of time of the disability. The amount of money required to meet these obligations is a matter of minor importance. It is generally admitted, that, under Providence, the loyal soldiers and sailors in the late war made it possible for the entire country to attain its present prosperous condition.

The active participants in that struggle are now waiting patiently to see if the repeated promises of the Government are to be kept; if its "word to them shall prove as good as its bonds." It is suggested that pension-fund bonds, to a sufficient amount, be issued, the proceeds of which shall be applied to the immediate settlement of approved claims. Whether this or some other plan be adopted to provide the necessary amount, it is to be hoped that some method will be at once devised for a speedy adjustment of claims for pensions.

## EQUITY.

## SOLDIERS' HOME PENSIONS.

Upon this subject Commissioner Dudley, in his report, says:

Much annoyance and unpleasant friction has been caused by the imperfect legislation upon the subject of the payment of pensions of inmates of the National Military Home by the pension agents, to the treasurer of the home.

The act of February 26, 1881, provides that such payments shall be made upon the execution by such treasurer of good and sufficient bonds to the satisfaction of the board of managers.

The statute, making such inmates amenable to the rules and regulations prescribed for the governing of the army, is thought by many to be unconstitutional, and that such inmates cannot be considered in the light of enlisted men, else the right to pension ceases during such enlistment. If the pay of an enlisted man is reduced to such an extent that he would be entitled, and consequently the practice of summarily and voluntarily leaving such home just previous to pension pay day, and declaring themselves no longer inmates has been frequently resorted to, greatly to the annoyance of the pension agent and to the detriment of the discipline of the Home, and consequent damage to the welfare of the beneficiaries.

It is to be hoped that Congress will thoroughly inquire into this matter, and cure such defects of legislation as permit this unpleasant friction, to the end that there may be harmonious action between the Pension Office, its agents, and the Home, and so promote the well being of the defenders of the Nation entrusted to their care.

## GRAND ARMY MATTERS.

A new Post, G. A. R., to be known as Gordon Granger Post, No. 64, has been organized at Grinnell, Iowa. The following officers were elected: J. H. Hamilton, Commander; G. B. Griswold, Senior Vice-Commander; A. J. Preston, Junior Vice-Commander; J. H. Miller, Adjutant; G. M. Worthington, Surgeon; J. H. Smith, Chaplain; J. P. Park, Quartermaster; O. Osburn, Officer of the Day; J. R. Matchet, Sergeant-Major; J. B. Rouse, Quartermaster-Sergeant; F. Chase, Officer of the Guard.

A new Post, G. A. R., to be known as Harrison Post, No. 231, has been established at Buffalo Mills, Department of Pennsylvania. It was organized with thirty-three charter members, with eight applications for membership pending.

Mansfield Post, No. 54, of Palmyra, Neb., held a pleasant Camp-fire recently, at which one hundred and twenty-five old veterans put in their appearance. Songs, incidents of army life, and a bountiful supper made up the prominent features of the occasion.

## A GOOD IDEA.

The Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Nebraska, has issued a circular inviting sealed proposals from cities, towns, and villages in that State desirous of securing the location of the Soldier's Reunion for 1882.

The locality making the most advantageous proposition will be fixed upon as the place of meeting.

## RETURN OF LETTERS TO WRITER.

Acting Postmaster-General Hutton has made the following ruling: "The sender of any request matter, subject to first-class rates (see section 456, P. L. & R.), has the right to lengthen or shorten the time originally named on the envelope after which a letter, if not delivered, shall be returned to him, provided it remain on delivery at least three days, and postmasters should obey such written authority, and return as directed, without additional charge for postage. The sender of card matter—i. e., letters which bear simply the name and address of the sender, without a request to return—if not delivered (see section 457), has the right to name a time after which, if not delivered, such matter shall be returned to him, provided it remain on delivery at least three days, and postmasters should obey such written authority, and return as directed, without additional charge for postage."

## IMPORTANT LEGISLATION.

The following bills have been introduced in the Senate:

By Mr. Call, (dem.) of Fla.—Granting pensions to soldiers of the Mexican war and to soldiers engaged in the Creek, Seminole, and Blackhawk Indian wars. (This is the bill which was reported favorably from the Senate Committee on Pensions last session.) Referred to the Committee on Pensions.

By Mr. Davis, (dem.) of W. Va.—Authorizing the payment of prize money to the officers of the Farquhar fleet for the destruction of the enemy's vessels in April, 1862. Referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

## WESTERN RIVER IMPROVEMENTS.

The bill introduced in the Senate by Mr. Vest for the improvement of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers provides for the expenditure of ten millions of dollars under the direction of the Engineer Corps of the Army, one-half of the amount upon the Mississippi and the remainder upon the Missouri, in accordance with plans already recommended by the Mississippi River Commission. The bill also authorizes the Attorney-General to institute proper proceedings in the United States Courts having jurisdiction for the appropriation of land and material necessary for the prosecution of the work, the land and material so appropriated to be duly appraised and paid for.

## ESTIMATES FOR 1883.

The book of estimates of appropriations required for the service of the Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1883, has just been completed. The following is a recapitulation of its contents:

Objects	1882.	1883.
Legislative	\$5,321,084	\$5,537,799
Executive proper	109,890	98,064
Department of State	1,473,995	1,420,475
Treasury Department	17,619,613	182,096,878
War Department	43,536,276	41,147,053
Navy Department	20,327,806	16,124,172
Interior Department	112,065,042	90,159,787
Post-Office Department	2,466,257	4,364,519
Department of Agriculture	92,180	342,720
Department of Justice	3,816,620	3,806,220
Grand totals	\$30,462,507	\$298,297,722

## HOME NOTES.

Visitors to the White House will not be allowed in the future to enter the East Room except under the escort of an usher, as has always been the custom in visiting the other rooms on the first floor. This rule is a very commendable one and we hope to hear of its strict enforcement.

It is said that President Arthur will not entertain at the White House this winter and there will not be any festive occasions as past winters have witnessed there. His sisters, Mrs. McElroy and Mrs. Morton, and sister-in-law, Mrs. Arthur, will visit him during the season.

It is rumored that Senator David Davis will be married shortly to a most attractive lady from Lenox, Massachusetts. She is the sister of his first wife, and if the report be true, he is to be sincerely congratulated.

General John T. Wilder, formerly of Indianapolis, Indiana, whose gallant exploit at Mission Ridge with his mounted infantry won notice even on that field, where every man was a hero, is in the city. He comes strongly endorsed by his Statespeople for reappointment to the position of postmaster at Chattanooga, Tenn., which office he now holds.

Among the distinguished foreigners now in the city is Count Andrássy of Austria. He proposes to spend the gay season here, and then later "tour" through the country.

Colonel William Roy, commander General Mower Post, No. 1, G. A. R., at New Orleans, and commander of the Boys in Blue of the Department of Louisiana, is in the city and an applicant for the United States marshalship of that district. The Colonel has always been as bold and fearless a Republican as he was a soldier in command of an Indiana regiment, and is made of just the stuff for a United States marshal.

General Tom Browne, of Indiana, is being strongly urged by his friends for the chairmanship of the Committee on Invalid Pensions. General Browne was a gallant soldier, and has long been one of the most prominent figures in Indiana politics. He would bring to that position a clear head, fine legal ability, and great industry. It is currently reported that he will get this committee.

The Post-Office savings bank bill will probably be considered at the present session of Congress. There is very much to be said in its favor, and it is to be hoped Congress may order a trial to be made.

Colonel Brownlow has appointed Colonel William Irving, of the Thirty-eighth Ohio Veteran Volunteers, on the soldiers' roll. The Colonel served throughout the war, and lost his left leg and received two flesh wounds in a desperate charge on the Confederate lines at Atlanta. He is now a citizen of Topeka, Kan., and was recommended by the Kansas delegation.

The bill extending the franking privilege to the widow of the late President Garfield was passed by the Senate unanimously last week, being the first bill passed by that body this session.

Forty-two men of the old crew of the frigate *Trenton* were transferred from the "Guard Ho," at New York, to the Portsmouth, to come around to Washington. It is a singular fact, as alleged by a member of the crew, that only three of the forty-two men are Americans.

It is rumored that the young Iowa Stalwart, Acting Postmaster-General Hutton, is likely to become Postmaster-General in fact.

The United States steamer *Despatch* left the Washington Navy Yard on the 12th for St. Johns, Porto Rico, with instructions to make a survey of Samana Bay. She will return in May.

The Secretary of State has made public the correspondence with Minister Hurlbut and Kilpatrick in Peru and Chili under date of November 22. Both are somewhat sharply criticised upon their unauthorized action, which has resulted in placing our relations with those republics in such an unsatisfactory condition as to require the services of a special envoy.

It is currently reported and believed that Postmaster-General James will